

Abstract

A small hot-air circulation furnace performs continuous treatment using hot air at a fixed temperature. Hot air supplied from a heat source is blown out from an axial-flow fan toward a hearth to form a circulating flow passing through an annular heating-target mount on the rotating hearth. The heating-targets are taken out one by one after increasing the temperature of the heating-target on the mount to a predetermined point during one rotation of the hearth. Further, a partition whose outlet-side opening θ_2 is narrower than the inlet-side opening θ_1 is provided inside the annular partition to supply part of high-temperature gas blown.